

BACK TO BASICS

HOW WE LEARN
ENGLISH FLUENCY
AND ANY OTHER
LANGUAGES

WORLD

HOW TO



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HOW CAN I LEARN ENGLISH AND SPEAK FLUENTLY LIKE A NATIVE SPEAKER?

When learning English, or any other new language of your choice, it is important to understand what the basics are and to find your own way of learning.



WHO AM I?

My name is Mary Tse.

I am an expert
who can help you to improve
your English Fluency
without losing your free time.

I was born in Hong Kong and went to
boarding school in England where I
became bi-lingual in English and
Cantonese. Later I also mastered
conversational Japanese without moving
to and living in Japan.

THE BASIC FACTS

As adults, or children at school, we have been trained to learn a second language starting by reading the new words and repeating the pronunciation.

Gradually building the words into phrases and sentences, as well as learning the grammar rules. Following is most likely to be listening practice and finally the speaking practice.

The writing part is embedded throughout these stages.

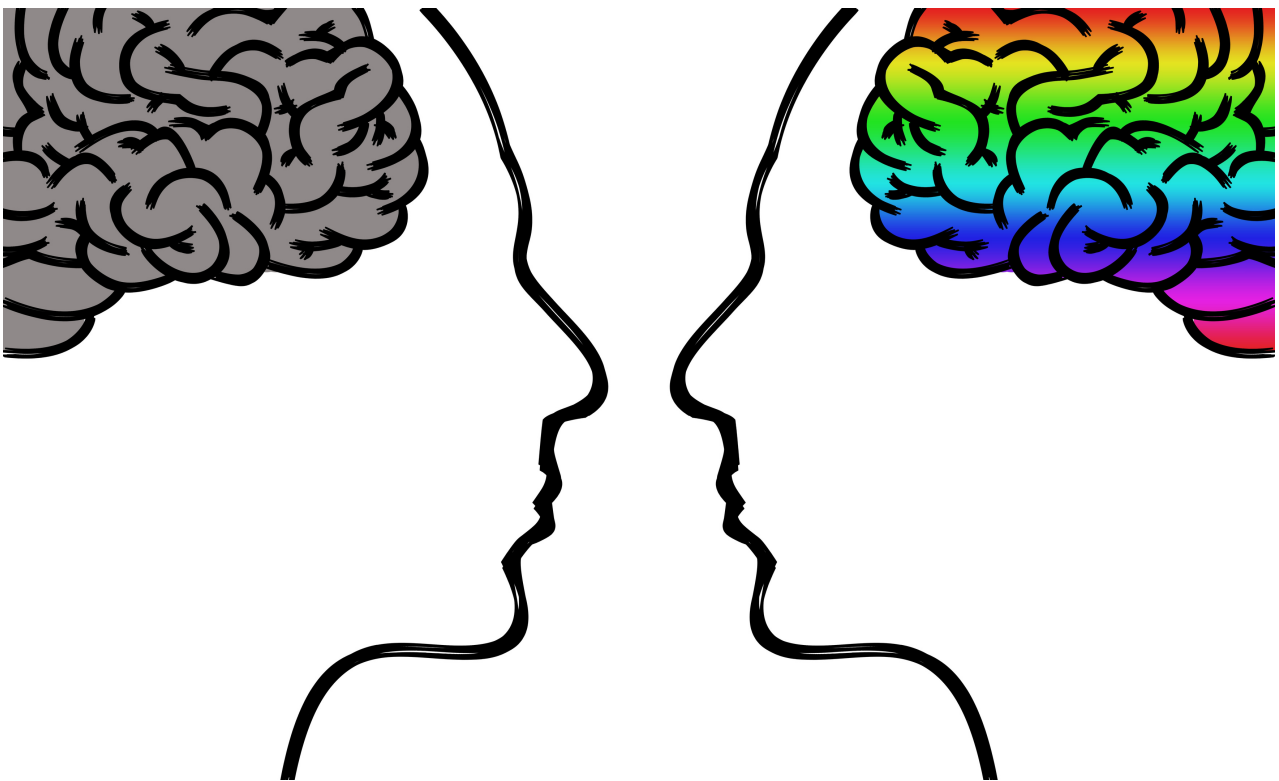
This method is good when our emphasis is on the vocabulary of the target language. But once we need to speak, we become incompetent, worried about making mistakes and often don't know what to talk about.





In fact, there is another way, in a general sense, that we all learn a language. This is what I call the basics of learning a new language. We all have been born as babies. And we didn't know how to speak any languages at all. So how did we learn our Mother Tongue?

Babies are usually surrounded by their families and care takers. These adults commonly interact with the babies and speak to them. The babies keep listening to these words, phrases and sentences repeatedly and as they grow older, they begin to imitate those sounds adults make.



With practice, these sounds become clearer and words forming, following by phrases and sentences. Actual progress varies between individuals, but this is the basic framework. Once speech has begun, major caretakers are likely to start reading picture books to them and help them to recognize writing. It is only when they better developed motor skills, they are able to begin to pick up pens and begin scribbling then gradually towards writing words.



Just like babies, we need to spend as much time as possible listening to English. We need to get used to different accents, different speeds as well as different expressions with same meaning.

The best thing for this part of the learning is that you can do this anytime and anywhere. All you need to do is to have the TV on (only listening, NOT watching), the radio or anything you can get hold of. Don't worry about concentrating on understanding it. Just have the sound in the background. You can be reading something in your own language, you can be cleaning the house, or you can be going to bed and then falling asleep.

This is spending time listening without extra time (NET time).



As listening time increases, you can begin to repeat words and phrases. In particular those that are new to you. You will need to find a little time for this practice, but it can just be as little as 5 minutes a day for a word, a phrase or even a combination of these.

Of course, how much you practice also depends on how much time you have to spend on it.



READING TEXTS

Again, reading takes time. You can start by spending 10 minutes a day. Depending on your level or your needs, as well as your interests, you can choose any books you like.

This is also a practice which you should combine with speech imitation. This means that you should be reading texts aloud.

My suggestion here is that you start with children's books. The words are easier and many have conversations between the characters. If you have children, read them bedtime stories. This is a very good practice for both of you. When you read, take up the characteristics of the different characters. This becomes NET time.



Again, depending on your needs, you can spend time practicing your writing. This is likely to take longer and you can start with 15 minutes a day.

By this time, you have probably gained some kind of fluency. You can first try to write out what you want to say, then you can work on your words and grammar.